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the genesis of the ideas and the literary influences which determined the form of each composition, and the result is always illuminating. His judgments are mature and well-balanced, showing no disposition to exaggerate the intrinsic value of Southey's work. There are pages of admirable psychological analysis, though perhaps in discussing Southey's character the writer is inclined to show too great a deference to Southey's weaknesses. It seems as if it were laboring a point too strenuously to explain a certain blindness of Southey's to the rational and his terrified reactions to the vital and progressive forces of his time by reference to his sufferings from the visitations of death among those he loved. His experiences in this were not so unusual as to constitute a special plea.

Dr. Haller writes excellently and altogether he has produced a book which satisfies every reasonable demand that the student of literature can make upon it. We wish him success in his design to continue the study here begun and we shall look forward with interest to the appearance of the next portion of his work.

JACOB ZEITLIN.

*University of Illinois.*

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*ILLUSTRATIONS OF CHAUCER'S ENGLAND*, edited by Dorothy Hughes, M.A., with a Preface by A. F. Pollard, M.A., Litt.D. [University of London Intermediate Source-books of History, No. I.] Longmans, Green and Co., London, New York, Bombay, etc. 1918. Pp. xiv+302. \$2.50 net.

Since 1857, when the English government adopted a plan proposed by the Master of the Rolls for the publication of original materials for English history, and since the founding of the Early English Text Society (1863), and the Chaucer Society (1868), English students of history and literature have more and more become accustomed to go to the sources for their facts. And the volume before us is a source-book.

In the words of Mr. Pollard's Preface: "The immediate object of this volume, and of the series which it inaugurates, is of a practical character. It is to remove some of the difficulties which beset students, teachers, and examiners in connection with the original texts prescribed as part of the Intermediate course and examination in history in the University of London." The editor is no novice in dealing with sources, as her "Early Years of Edward III," published in 1915, well shows.

Obviously, a book made up to suit the needs of a specific course in one institution is compelled to move within somewhat narrow lines and cannot be regarded as representing the wholly untrammelled choice of the editor. But owing to the fact that Mr. Pollard writes the preface, the editor herself nowhere tells us precisely what she is aiming to do. The title suggests to the

average reader a volume largely given up to illustrations of the social life so brilliantly sketched by Chaucer himself; passages throwing light on the life of the gentleman farmer, the weaver, the miller, the physician, and the score of other characters that live in Chaucer's pages. Such a book would be of fascinating interest, and materials for it are not altogether lacking.

Singularly enough, however, notwithstanding the title, Chaucer's name does not appear in the index or elsewhere in the book except on the title-page and in the Preface. A partial justification for the title would appear to be that the facts here recorded are outstanding facts in the history of the century and that Chaucer's life actually spans the period covered by the book. But except at a few points the book does not directly illuminate Chaucer's work. Thus much should be said plainly, for it is to be feared that many readers will come to it with expectations bound to be disappointed.

We must emphasize, too, the fact that the book is really a text-book, not a book for the advanced investigator but one to initiate beginners into the significance and use of original sources. Evidently, the beginner, whatever his natural ability, is hardly prepared without some preliminary training to make intelligent use of primary sources. And I hasten to add that, considered from the point of view of the teacher of history, the book is an admirable one. It is thoroughly scholarly, the selections are typical, for the most part unhackneyed, and, with few exceptions, of interest to the general reader. A book of selections *can* be easily made by a free use of the scissors and the paste pot, but the making of a book of the quality of this one is no light recreation for an idle hour. Various critical notes (pp. 72, 87, 100, 121, 122, 129, etc.) indicate that the illustrations have not been hastily or uncritically selected. In many cases exact references indicate the volume and page from which the passage is taken. This excellent plan is, however, not uniformly followed. The beginner who wishes rapidly to verify a passage or to discover its relation to the context in the original will almost certainly be hampered by the lack of exact references on pp. 14, 15, 26, 27, 29, 34, 35, 46, 80, etc., etc.

Nearly half the 295 pages of text are given to the French War (pp. 1-142); about 35 pages to social history; about a score of pages to ecclesiastical affairs, and 93 pages to political and constitutional history. The selected passages are mainly drawn from Froissart, Adam of Murimuth, Thomas Walsingham, Robert of Avesbury, Henry of Knighton, the Rolls of Parliament, the *Fœdera*, and various contemporary letters. A good part of the sources are in Latin or French. The selections from these have been rendered into brisk and idiomatic English, in many cases by the editor. As a result the entire volume has a fresh flavor and is uniformly attractive.

Manifestly, a book containing less than three hundred pages of text in large print can present only a limited amount of historical detail and, as already remarked, can be of no special service to the advanced student who is plowing through the entire field. But on the other hand the book is in a high degree suggestive and stimulating to the beginner. The extracts dealing with the French War are skillfully selected so as to bring out the turning points in that great struggle and illustrate characteristic features of fourteenth century warfare. Peculiarly interesting is it to follow (pp. 70 ff.) the raids of the Black Prince in Gascony in 1355. The burning and pillaging of the towns, the laying waste of the country, the destruction of the bridges,—all this has an amazing resemblance to what has been going on in France and Belgium and elsewhere during the past four years, with the difference that much that was normal warfare five hundred years ago is now regarded as savagery.

One passage from Froissart (pp. 83, 84) telling of the ransom of prisoners after the battle of Poitiers throws some light on modern national traits:

“And the knights and squires who were prisoners found the Englishmen and Gascons right courteous; there were many that day let go only on their promise of faith and truth to return again between then and Christmas to Bordeaux with their ransoms. . . . They constrained them no otherwise but that they asked them on their honour how much they could pay, without burdening them too much and willingly believed them. For they said that they would set no knight's or squire's ransom so high but that he might pay at his ease and maintain his degree according to his estate, and ride about to advance his person and his honour. The custom of the Germans nor their courtesy is not such, for they have neither pity nor mercy upon any gentleman, but ransom them to the full extent of their means, and beyond, and put them in stocks and chains, and keep them in prison as straitly as they can, to extort greater ransom from them.”

Special attention may be directed also to the thrilling descriptions of the battles of Crecy (pp. 46 ff.) and Poitiers (pp. 80 ff.); to the text of the Treaty of Bretigny (pp. 89 ff.); to the Statute of Artificers and Servants, 25 Edw. III, Stat. 2 (pp. 155 ff.); to the passages relating to Wyclif (pp. 194 ff.). Possibly for students of history the amount of space devoted to the French War may not be excessive, yet most students of Chaucer will regret that social history gets rather scant measure. Some day we may hope to have a really adequate, first-hand presentation of the outstanding facts relating to the social life in Chaucer's day. But, all in all, though not primarily a handbook for students of Chaucer, the book is a good one for any student who aims to understand the fourteenth century as a whole, and it is likely to lead those who use it intelligently to independent conclusions.

Errors are commendably few. Trifling misprints are found on pp. 8, 58, 285. Abbeville appears as Abbéville, pp. 44, 51, though never so written in French.

WILLIAM EDWARD MEAD.

*Wesleyan University.*